



The Transformer

February 2014

717-866-4910

Friedens Lutheran Church, 301 W. Washington Ave., Myerstown, PA

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Isaiah 60:4

There is a continual theme in scripture of the scattering and the gathering of the people. Cain is driven from his home after killing Abel. The people are divided and scattered at the Tower of Babel. The Israelites will be carried off into exile. The prodigal son leaves his family home. The early followers of Jesus are driven from Jerusalem and Paul finds a hearing only among the scattered in Gentile lands. But, throughout scripture, we also witness the gathering together of that which was once scattered. Whether we refer to the scattered as the prodigal Israel gathered in from exile or the Pentecostal experience of the people once again hearing the common, healing, reconciling message of God, the prodigal does come home.

The gathering will be not only of the faithful remnant but of the whole world. "Nations shall come to Your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn." This passage from Isaiah was written after the people had returned from exile. When they returned, they found a land of poverty and they lived on the edge of despair. But this kind of darkness is something many people experience.

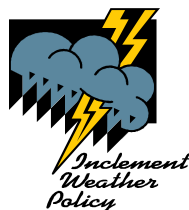
Christmas was tough this year; it was more difficult this year because it was the first one I experienced without my father. And even though I did not experience the joy of the season as I have in years past, it was not about me or my feelings. This is all about God incarnate; God with us at all times – not just when I feel good or fell happy. We will experience odd moments and dark times in our lives; but we have been claimed by God who promises that we will never be alone. God has gathered us together into this thing we call God's church where we receive courage by the vision of what God yet will do. Our faithfulness over our little area of the world is not pointless but a part of God's great gathering. "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

Ken



COFFEE HOUR NEEDS YOUR HELP

Ever wonder how coffee gets magically made in the morning for you nearly every Sunday? Well, all it takes is a few minutes of someone's time and a desire to help keep our social hour lively. Members of the coffee hour committee are seeking helpers who are willing to volunteer to make it happen...we can't do it all ourselves! Coffee, cookies and munchies are all purchased and waiting for someone each Sunday to pull together. We even have a new coffee pot! **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BAKE OR PURCHASE TREATS BY YOURSELF.** Sign up on the list in Stauffer Hall or talk with Susan Harper, Carmela Deck or Annette Beamesderfer. Your help is appreciated by coffee drinkers everywhere!



FOUL WEATHER POLICY
if worship needs to be cancelled due to foul weather, this info will be shared on:
-1270 AM WLBR/100.1 FM WQIC
- WGAL tv & website
- Friedens Facebook page



Doris Yocum and Paulette Krick will lead Using Our Gifts in the World on Monday, February 17. All ladies attending the meeting are requested to bring paper products that will be given to the Rescue Mission.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



The church office hours are 9 A.M.—1 P.M. Monday to Friday.

CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Searching for a New Pastor



Tad Achenbach
John Flesher
Chris Heft
Sister Janice Ruch
John R. Smith
McKenna Achenbach

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

December 2013

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,802.00	Goal to Date	\$321,625.00	92%
\$321,625.00	Rec'd	\$42,660.00	Rec'd to Date	294,898.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	60.00	Rec'd to Date	652.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	285.00	Rec'd to Date	3,100.00	



The family of Rachel Hardy would like to thank everyone for the love and support shown to us during the loss of our loved one. Rachel will be missed forever, but we know she will live in the hearts of all

who shared their grief with us during this difficult time.

Love & warm regards,
The Richard Hardy family

Heartfelt and gracious thank you for the lovely Christmas flower. Being remembered is a heart warming feeling.

Blessing and joy to all
Veronica Morgan

Thank you: Many thanks to the volunteers who gave of their time to help keep Friedens clean this past year. Joanne Maurer, Kate Ebner, Karen Lindermuth, Beth Kaylor, Terry Keath, Tom Morrissey, Joel & Judy Zinn, Dorie Lessig, Larry Kemble, and Larry Sitler. Jane & Logan Salem took care of the pavilion. We are happy to have Jerry Zimmerman take over these duties. Also thanks to Jody & Lynn Appleby for taking care of the cleaning in the children's church rooms.

Gene & Barb Lessig

God has sent his guardian angels into the hearts of the wonderful people of Friedens Church who with their thoughts and prayers for myself and others have helped so much.

Bless you all,
Barbara Bailey



On Sunday, February 2, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for instant mashed potatoes, 5 oz. canned chicken, canned luncheon meat, jelly, 18 oz & 32 oz., complete pancake mix, hamburger helper, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.

Congregational Meeting



Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 11:30 am in Stauffer Hall. Annual Reports from Staff & Team/Committee Leaders are due to Janet

Moyer no later than Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

During this meeting we will review these reports as well as the Endowment Budget. Elaine Lasch will coordinate a team to serve soup & bread at the meeting.

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

Mrs. Esther Z. Yeakley
450 Yeagley Road
Myerstown, PA 17067

Meals for the Homebound Many
 Eager
 Ambassadors
 Lending
 Service...

Do you know anyone coming home from the hospital at Friedens, Who will be homebound for one or two weeks and in need for meals? Please call Joanne at 717/507-1997 to schedule the meals.

FEBRUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 AM— Comntemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	3	4	5 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Re- hearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	6 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	7	8
9 9 AM— Comntemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 11:30 AM— Congregational Meeting	10	11 7 pm—Property Committee	12 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	13 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	14 	15
16 9 AM— Comntemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	17 7 PM—Women of ELCA	18	19 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Re- hearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	20 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble 7 PM—Church Council	21	22
23 9 AM— Comntemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	24	25	26 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	27 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	28	

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
January 23, 2014

Jody Appleby, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Jody Appleby (Vice President), Frank Armstrong, Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Jim Kneasel, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Ken Osborne (Interim Pastor) and Sharon Riegel (Secretary). Excused: Jon Koller

1. Opening Prayer: Sharon Riegel opened the meeting with prayer. The group sang the hymn "Here I Am Lord." Scripture: Isaiah 6:8. Discussion followed.

2. Chris Heft made a motion to appoint the following officers for 2014. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion Carried.

Jody Appleby, President
Frank Armstrong, Vice President
Sharon Riegel, Secretary
Millie Treat, Financial Secretary
Elaine Lasch, Treasurer
Sally Sholley, Assistant Treasurer

3. Minutes/Reports/Communications:

a. Janice DuBois made a motion to accept the December 19, 2013 Church Council Minutes. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

b. Christ Heft made a motion to accept the December 2013 Financial Secretary's Report. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.

c. Janice DuBois made a motion to accept the December 2013 Treasurer's Report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

d. Ken Osborne shared a verbal Pastor's Report for December 2013. Highlights of Pastor's Report include:
- Pastor Osborne will be off January 27, 2014 through February 2, 2014. Pastor Sharron Blezard, Lower Susquehanna Synod will be our Supply Pastor on February 2, 2014.
- Pastor Osborne will schedule a New Members Class in the near future. If you know of any person or families who would like to join Friedens, please ask them to connect directly with Pastor Ken.

4. Finance Committee meets January 28 at 6:30 pm. Chris Heft will be the Council Rep for the January meeting. The Council Rep at Finance Committee future meetings will be rotated.

5. Property Committee met on January 14, 2014. Council reviewed a copy of the minutes. Jim Kneasel also gave a verbal report. Beginning in 2014 Jim Kneasel will be the Council Rep on Property Committee. Jim Kneasel made the motion to approve ordering from Horst Signs at a cost of \$19,666 the outdoor sign to be placed between the church and Route 422. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

6. Chris Heft, Chairperson of Call Committee shared an update on the Pastoral Call Process. The process is ongoing. Please continue to pray for the Call Committee and Friedens during this process.
7. At our September 25, 2013 meeting Andy Evenson and Thomas McKee highly recommended we compose a "Parental Leave Policy." At our December meeting Pastor Osborne shared with the group his findings from Synod. Pastor Osborne will contact other churches for sample policies. Further discussion will continue at February meeting.
8. At our December 19, 2013 meeting Chris Heft shared an update on Clearances/Background Checks for Liability Purposes. Pastor Blezard of Synod provided Chris with a website for Council to review. Pastor Osborne & Janice DuBois will contact other churches for sample policies. Council will seek thoughts/insights from Jim Biever and Jon Zinn. Further discussion will continue at February meeting.
9. Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 11:30 am in Stauffer Hall. We will review the annual reports as well as the Endowment Budget. Elaine Lasch will coordinate a team to serve soup and bread at the meeting. Report packets will be available for review on February 2, 2014 and also February 9, 2014.
10. The group discussed the importance of helping people to be aware of all the various ministry opportunities to serve and use your gifts here at Friedens. Further discussion will continue at February meeting.
11. Chris Heft made the motion to approve the following as signers for the savings and checking accounts for youth group: Kim Garhart, Kerry Keller, Elaine Lasch and Millie Treat. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.
12. Joel Zinn provided an update on the Capital Fund Appeal. A lengthy discussion occurred. Janice DuBois made the motion to continue the Capital Fund Appeal with periodic updates. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.
13. Roger Kauffman shared his concerns regarding the cemetery. A lengthy discussion occurred. Council will follow up regarding Roger's concerns.
14. Next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 7 pm.
15. Jim Kneasel made the motion to adjourn. Frank Armstrong seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer lead by Pastor Osborne.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary

